

THE CLAIMS

The claims of the application, as amended, are:

1. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus (1) adapted for use within the space within a vehicle (2) comprising a collapsible flexible membrane (3) substantially impermeable to air, the flexible membrane (3) being adapted in use to enclose a portion of the space within the vehicle (2) and to separate the said portion of space enclosed by the flexible membrane (3) from a portion of the space within the vehicle provided outside the flexible membrane (3), ~~characterised in that~~ wherein means (11) is provided to maintain an air pressure difference between the portion of the space enclosed by the flexible membrane (3) and the portion of the space within the vehicle but outside the flexible membrane (3).
2. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the flexible membrane (3) is of bag-form
3. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the air pressure within the portion of the space enclosed by the flexible membrane (3) is maintained above atmospheric pressure.

4. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the air pressure within the portion of the space enclosed
by the flexible membrane (3) is maintained below atmospheric pressure.

5. (Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~,
~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the means to maintain an air pressure
difference is an air pumping device (11).

6. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in claim 5,
~~characterised in~~ wherein the air pumping device (11) is adapted to pump air from a
region exterior of the vehicle into the portion of the space enclosed by the flexible
membrane (3).

7. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in claim 5,
~~characterised in~~ wherein the air pumping device (11) is adapted to pump air from the
portion of the space within the vehicle but outside the flexible membrane (3) into the
portion of the space enclosed by the flexible membrane (3).

8. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in claim 5, ~~6 or 7~~,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the air pumping device is adapted to pump air from the
portion of the space enclosed by the flexible membrane (3) to a region exterior of the
vehicle.

9. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding claim, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the flexible membrane (3) is provided with attachment means (5) selected from means for securing directly and means for securing indirectly to an inner surface of the vehicle.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in claim 9 ~~or 10,~~ characterised in that, wherein the attachment means (5) are selected from straps, hook and loop material, hook and eye fasteners, magnets and combinations thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding claim, characterised in that~~ claim 1 wherein the flexible membrane (3) is provided with supporting members (13).

13. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in claim 12, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the supporting members (13) are in the form of inflatable tubular members.

14. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in claim 12 ~~or 13,~~ characterised in that, wherein the supporting members (13) are in the form of collapsible supporting rods.

15. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding claim, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the flexible membrane (3) is opaque.

16. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 15, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the flexible membrane (3) is translucent.

17. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding claim, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein lighting means (9) is provided in the flexible membrane (3).

18. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in claim 17, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the lighting means is in the form of at least one panel (9) selected from trans-lucent and transparent material.

19. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding claim, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein lighting means is provided in the form of a light source provided within the space enclosed by the flexible membrane (3).

20. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in claim 19, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the light source is a battery-powered lamp.

21. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding claim, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the flexible membrane (3) comprises a plastics material ~~of selected from~~ sheet or and fibre form.

22. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding claim, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the flexible membrane (3) comprises natural fibres.

23. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding claim, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the flexible membrane (3) is provided with a resealable opening (7) suitable for a user to enter and exit the space enclosed by the flexible membrane (3).

24. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding claim, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the apparatus includes a storage unit (21) adapted to be located within the vehicle for containing the flexible membrane (3) when the flexible membrane (3) is not in use.

25. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding claim, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein sanitation apparatus is provided in the space enclosed by the flexible membrane (3).

26. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in claim 25,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the sanitation apparatus is a toilet.

27. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~
~~claim, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein means is provided to prevent the
transmission of undesirable noise from the space enclosed by the flexible membrane
(3) to a region outside the flexible membrane (3).

28. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in claim 27,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the means to prevent the transmission of undesirable
noise comprises an acoustically impermeable material forming the flexible
membrane (3).

29. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in claim 27,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the means to prevent the transmission of undesirable
noise comprises a noise generator provided within the space enclosed by the flexible
membrane (3) to mask the undesirable noise.

30. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~
~~claim, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein means is provided to prevent the
transmission of undesirable odours from the space enclosed by the flexible
membrane (3) to a region outside the flexible membrane (3).

31. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in claim 30,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the means to prevent the transmission of
undesirable odours comprises an odour absorber.

32. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in claim 31,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the odour absorber is a chemical scrubber.

33. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in claim 30,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the means to prevent the transmission of undesirable
odours comprises a desirable odour generator provided within the space enclosed by
the flexible membrane (3) to mask the undesirable odour.

34. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in ~~any preceding~~
~~claim, characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein means is provided to enable a user to
rupture the flexible membrane in the event of an emergency to permit the user to exit
the space enclosed by the flexible membrane (3).

35. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in claim 34,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the means to rupture the flexible membrane comprises
an openable seam provided in the flexible membrane.

36. (Currently Amended) A hygiene apparatus as claimed in claim 34,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the means to rupture the flexible membrane comprises a
detachable panel provided in the flexible membrane.

37. (Currently Amended) A vehicle incorporating a hygiene apparatus as
claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1.